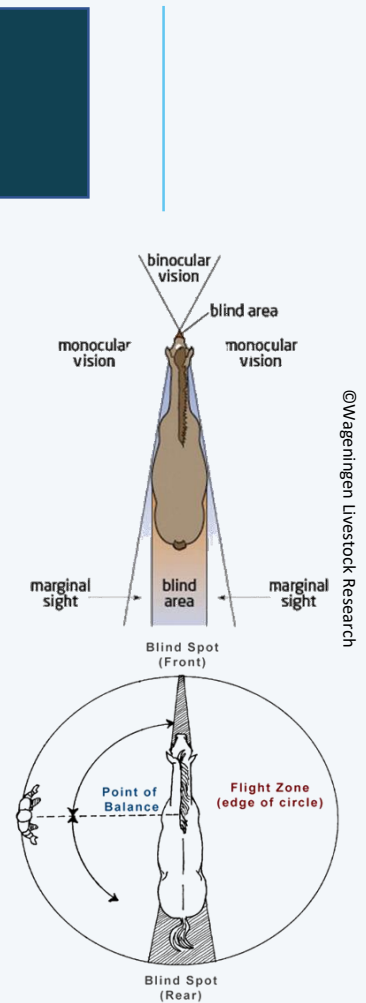


Correct handling of horses

How do I influence the behaviour of the horse?

- ✓ The **field of vision** for horses is different than for humans. Horses need more time to adapt to changes in light intensity and have poor depth perception
- ✓ Horses can see around themselves (**'wide-angle' vision**), but have 'blind areas' directly in front and behind. Keep clear of these areas to avoid frightening the horse
- ✓ Each horse has a safety zone or a **flight zone** around it. Entering this area will cause the animal to turn away. The more tame the horse is, the smaller this flight zone will be (i.e. the closer you will be able to get to the horse before it turns away). You can make the horse move, by applying and releasing pressure on the edge of the flight zone
- ✓ The **point of balance** is at the shoulder of the horse. The horse will move forward if the handler stands behind the point of balance
- ✓ **Low stress handling** is based on applying the principles of the flight zone and the point of balance



How do I load horses correctly?



1. Arrange the **surroundings** to make the loading easier
2. Take **sufficient time** for loading. Rushing causes additional stress
3. Use well-trained and competent **personnel** for loading
4. Avoid entering the **blind areas** when approaching a horse
5. Use the **safety zone** to make an animal move or stop
6. Use the **point of balance** to adjust the direction of movement
7. Move the horses from a darker to a **lighter area** and avoid light contrasts
8. Inexperienced or unbroken animals should be treated with **extra caution**

How do I prevent fighting in the vehicle?

1. Feed and water the horses individually, make access easy
2. Partitions with head sections will prevent biting
3. Never place stallions directly next to mares

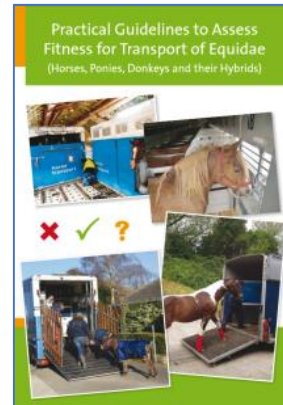


How do I check the fitness of horses?

Signs that an animal is healthy and fit for transport

- Attentive, alert and responsive to its environment
- Eyes bright and clear; ears mobile
- Weight distributed evenly on all four legs when standing and moving
- No signs of injury, pain, inflammation, swelling or abnormal discharge
- Breathing normally
- Good body condition / weight
- Shiny coat and supple skin
- Normal appetite and water consumption
- Normal faeces and urine in terms of frequency, consistency and colour

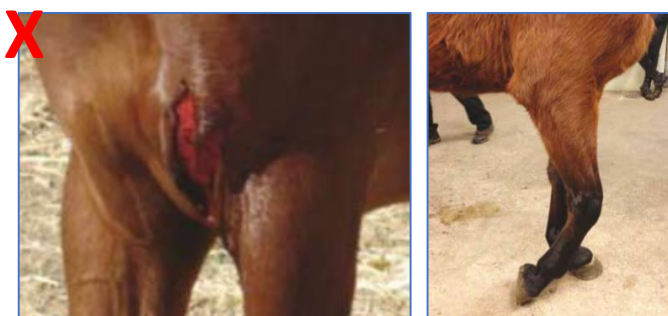
Horses and donkeys may exhibit different signs of good or poor health



Use the 'Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Equidae'



How do I deal with impaired fitness?



1. **Check** the horses at every stop for signs of impaired fitness
2. Activate the **contingency plan** immediately and take appropriate action
3. **Take care** of sick / injured animals at place of destination / intermediate stop
4. Sick / injured animal able to put weight on all four legs and walk off the vehicle: separate in holding pen and seek **veterinary assistance as soon as possible**
5. Sick / injured animal not able to put weight on all four legs: seek **immediate veterinary assistance**